

**CLAIMS**

1. An emollient mixture, characterized in that it contains at least one ester selected from the esters of a C<sub>8-18</sub> fatty acid with a C<sub>3-12</sub> alcohol and the esters of adipic acid with a C<sub>3-12</sub> alcohol in combination with a poly- $\alpha$ -olefin and the percentage content of the ester is between 10 and 90% by weight, based on the total quantity of ester and poly- $\alpha$ -olefin.
2. An emollient mixture as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the ester is a fatty acid ester containing 12 to 18 carbon atoms in the fatty acid component.
3. An emollient mixture as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the ester is a fatty acid ester or an adipic acid ester containing 3 to 8 carbon atoms in the alcohol component.
4. An emollient mixture as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the ester is selected from dibutyl adipate, ethylhexyl cocoate, ethylhexyl palmitate, ethylhexyl stearate, isopropyl myristate and isopropyl palmitate.
5. An emollient mixture as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the poly- $\alpha$ -olefin is a hydrogenated poly- $\alpha$ -olefin.
6. An emollient mixture as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the poly- $\alpha$ -olefin is an oligomer, more particularly a dimer, of 1-decene or 1-dodecene.
7. An emollient mixture as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the poly- $\alpha$ -olefin has a kinetic viscosity at 100°C of 1 to 100 cSt, preferably 1 to 40 cSt and more particularly 1.5 to 10 cSt.
8. An emollient mixture as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the percentage content of the ester is 20 to 80% by weight, preferably 25 to 75% by weight and more particularly 40 to 75% by weight, based on the total quantity of ester and poly- $\alpha$ -olefin.
9. An emollient mixture as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that it consists of ester and poly- $\alpha$ -olefin.
10. An emollient mixture as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8,

characterized in that it contains up to 50% by weight and more particularly up to 30% by weight, based on its total quantity, of another emollient.

11. An emollient mixture as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the other emollient is selected from Guerbet alcohols and C<sub>6-24</sub> fatty acid glycerides, more particularly C<sub>8-18</sub> fatty acid glycerides.

12. An emollient mixture as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the Guerbet alcohol is selected from 2-hexyldecanol, 2-butyloctanol and 2-octyldodecanol.

13. An emollient mixture as claimed in claim 11 or 12, characterized in that the fatty acid glyceride is selected from C<sub>8-18</sub> fatty acid diglycerides, C<sub>8-18</sub> and more particularly C<sub>12-18</sub> fatty acid triglycerides or mixtures thereof.

14. An emollient mixture as claimed in any of claims 10 to 13, characterized in that the other emollient is present in a quantity of 0.1 to 50% by weight, preferably 5 to 40% by weight and more particularly 10 to 30% by weight, based on the total quantity of ester and poly- $\alpha$ -olefin.

15. The use of the emollient mixture claimed in any of claims 1 to 14 as a mineral oil substitute in cosmetic compositions.

16. A cosmetic composition, characterized in that it contains the emollient mixture claimed in any of claims 1 to 9.